Approved For Release 2008/03/03 : CIA-RDP63-00313A000600180083-5

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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

COR-1520-62
23 January 1962

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: Exploitation Difficulties Arising from Security Requirements

1. As the senior DOD representative in the NPIC, one serious problem of DIA interest has come to my attention which I have been unable to resolve through my normal working contacts.

2. As the CORONA program has developed, various improvements have been scheduled in camera configuration. One such improvement involves a major change in configuration and format which calls for entirely new concepts in exploitation equipment and handling procedures, for both intelligence and cartographic purposes. For reasons which are unknown to me, the agency responsible for placing this new camera system in operation has placed very tight security restrictions on dissemination of information concerning it and has actually established a special codeword to cover it. This new camera system is scheduled to replace the current camera system in about one month. A limited number of personnel have been cleared at NPIC during its development but, insofar as I have been able to determine, very few personnel in the military services have been made aware of it.

3. We have been sufficiently aware of the program at NPIC to make certain limited provisions for handling the new format, but we have been hampered in sharing this knowledge with other intelligence exploiters. For example, it appears that no one at the PI working level at SAC knows about it. Possibly more serious is the fact that although it has tremendous cartographic implications, no one at the Army Map Service is cleared. Had they been cleared six months ago they would have had difficulty developing exploitation procedures in time. As it now stands they cannot possibly get ready in time.

4. In summary, I believe that national security interests have already suffered materially for the sake of a very questionable

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security requirement. The intelligence and cartographic community is not adequately prepared to exploit a new product which is almost upon us. It is already too late to repair all of the damage, but the sooner the restrictions are revoked the sooner we can all get on with the exploitation task.

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Deputy Director

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